

## Martial Arts 261

Chapter 261: Ten Thousand Ton Punching Force?

Chen Fan's gaze fell on the newly emerged trait.

[Rejuvenation: Active Skill, once activated, it continuously consumes 100 points of True Qi per second to continuously heal internal injuries for oneself or others. The consumption and healing effects double with each level of skill advancement.]

"It's indeed a healing skill."

Chen Fan thought to himself.

The so-called injuries probably refer to the internal injuries of a martial artist.

Such as damaged organs, ruptured blood and qi meridians, or blocked qi meridians.

If internal injuries are not treated promptly, they can easily become hidden issues. At best, one's cultivation gets harmed; at worst, inner strength becomes unusable.

This trait is strong because it can heal not only oneself but also others.

"I just wonder what the actual effect will be. Judging by the consumption rate, it shouldn't be high, but perhaps the more severe the internal injury, the longer the recovery time."

Thinking this, Chen Fan quickly shook his head.

If possible, he didn't want to experience such an ordeal.

His gaze turned to the skill bar, where the [Golden Bell Shield] had reached the 9th Floor, unlocking the [Vajra Indestructible Divine Skill].

"Should I continue to upgrade?"

Chen Fan hesitated.

Upgrading to the 10th Floor requires 80,000 points of experience.

And he had only about 110,000 points of experience left.

If he chooses to continue upgrading, he'll be left with just over 30,000 points of experience.

Whether he can unlock the [Dragon Elephant Wisdom Skill] is uncertain.

Not to mention mastering [Windward Slash] or studying some other heart methods.

After thinking for a while, he decided to wait.

After all, the protective True Qi of Level 9 compared to Level 10 only lacks fifty percent of the base increment.

With an increase in True Qi by twenty percent, it can break through ten thousand points.

But the cost-effectiveness is too low.

Some basic heart methods costing one or two hundred points only slightly increase True Qi by one percent, yet require much less experience.

Eighty thousand points of experience might be enough to max out seven or eight basic heart methods.

Additional True Qi enhancement would be at least three or four times.

In this way, he can also trigger the full effects of the martial art [Burst], increasing not only physical defense by several times but also dramatically enhancing strength and speed.

This improvement far exceeds the 10th Floor of the Golden Bell Shield.

Having made up his mind, Chen Fan chose to finish off the [Vajra Indestructible Divine Skill].

It would take a week.

"This works."

Chen Fan nodded slightly.

By the end of this period, he'll likely have broken through to the True Essence Realm.

It will be timely to replace the [Golden Bell Shield] with the higher-level [Vajra Indestructible Divine Skill].

"Next, I should finish off the Dragon Elephant Wisdom Skill."

Chen Fan's gaze fell on the two prerequisite martial arts.

[Thousand Forms Divine Skill],

[Ten Thousand Palm Divine Skill].

"Let's start with the Thousand Forms Divine Skill."

Chen Fan's mind moved as he added a point of experience to it, increasing skill level by one-fortieth.

"Forty points, not too much."

Chen Fan breathed a sigh of relief because the skill level of the [Thousand Forms Divine Skill], like the [Golden Bell Shield], is computed in floors.

There are ten floors in total. If the first floor already consumes too much experience, the higher floors will be painfully expensive.

As soon as he added the remaining experience points, a sense of power surged within him.

This feeling was significantly more pronounced than the improvement brought by practicing archery before.

[Thousand Forms Divine Skill: First Floor (0%), Trait: Power of One Elephant Level 1]

[Power of One Elephant: With each level increase, strength attribute permanently increases by 1250 points]

"Directly increased by one-tenth of the strength attribute."

Chen Fan sighed.

His strength attribute soared from 10,300 to 11,500 points.

The Thousand Forms Divine Skill has ten floors, so upgrading to the 10th Floor will increase the strength attribute by 12,500 points.

Strength attribute doubled!

Chen Fan immediately invested eighty experience points.

His body felt a warm current again, the feeling was very clear.

[Thousand Forms Divine Skill: Second Floor (0%), Trait: Power of One Elephant Level 2]

Third Floor,

Fourth Floor,

Fifth Floor...

Chen Fan's brow gradually furrowed.

A suspicion crossed his mind: could it be that this martial art has only one trait?

This time, the experience consumption reached 1280 points.

[Thousand Forms Divine Skill: Sixth Floor (0%), Trait: Power of One Elephant Level 6]

"..."

Chen Fan was speechless.

After consuming 20,480 points of experience, the Thousand Forms Divine Skill finally reached the 10th Floor.

[Thousand Forms Divine Skill: 10th Floor (Cannot be upgraded), Trait: Power of One Elephant Level 10]

As he suspected, only one trait was unlocked from beginning to end.

His eyes glanced at the strength attribute, which had now reached 22,800 points.

Chen Fan nodded satisfactorily.

This strength attribute is a basic attribute.

If he deploys [Burst], the strength attribute will increase by 6.5 times, reaching 150,000 points.

One punch, 1.5 million pounds!

This is a pure physical strength.

What if this punch is enhanced by True Qi?

What kind of power would that achieve?

Chen Fan's gaze fell on [Ten Thousand Palm Divine Skill].

He had practiced many fist and kick martial arts, but this was his first Qi-infused fist and kick martial art.

As a prerequisite for the top-level martial art [Dragon Elephant Wisdom Skill], it must be a first-class martial art itself.

Learning this wouldn't be a loss.

His mind moved as he added a point of experience to it.

Skill level increased by one-eighth.

Chen Fan smiled.

Palm technique martial arts benefit from reduced experience point consumption thanks to basic palm techniques.

Maxing out this martial art will require significantly fewer experience points than the Thousand Forms Divine Skill.

As he added the remaining experience points, a faint warm flow passed through his body.

[Ten Thousand Palm Divine Skill: Initial Glimpse (0%), Traits: Steel Bones Level 1, Strength of One Ox Level 1]

[Steel Bones: With each skill level increase, the Constitution Attribute increases by 100 points]

The Constitution and strength attributes both increased by 100 points.

Yet, Chen Fan frowned.

Increasing the Constitution attribute by 100 points was good.

But the strength attribute, only increasing by 100 points per level?

Not that it was low. The three previous archery skills had a similar strength attribute increment, indicating a normal enhancement.

However, compared to the Thousand Forms Divine Skill, it paled in comparison.

A perfected Ten Thousand Palm Divine Skill only increases strength by 500 points; the Thousand Forms Divine Skill boosts it by 25 times more.

With such a vast difference, how can the Ten Thousand Palm Divine Skill rival the Thousand Forms Divine Skill?

A shrewd glint flashed in Chen Fan's eyes.

It's True Qi!

That's the only explanation.

With True Qi enhancement, this palm technique's power can rival the Thousand Forms Divine Skill.

Thus intrigued, Chen Fan spent 160 experience points.

A strange feeling arose within him.

[Ten Thousand Palm Divine Skill: Slight Achievement (0%), Traits: Steel Bones Level 2, Strength of One Ox Level 2, Mountain-Pressing Palm Level 1]

[Mountain-Pressing Palm: Active skill, consumes 1000 points of True Qi, condenses palm seals over a meter high, causing damage equivalent to up to triple the practitioner's strength. The farther the distance, the lesser the damage. With each skill level increase, True Qi consumption doubles, and damage increases by an extra triple.]

"Mountain-Pressing Palm, quite a domineering name."

Chen Fan murmured.

No wonder, the Ten Thousand Palm Divine Skill is a notably fierce palm technique, and its successor [Dragon Elephant Wisdom Skill] is even more formidable and robust.

"Level 1 Mountain-Pressing Palm can deal damage up to triple the strength."

Chen Fan looked at his palm.

Meaning he can use this palm on the opponent.

With an original strength of 20,000 points, the strength transforms into 60,000 points!

If he first boosts the strength attribute to 150,000 points,

then uses True Qi to deliver this palm,

the force bursts to 450,000 points!

Thinking about it, Chen Fan inhaled sharply.

This is just Level 1 Mountain-Pressing Palm.

A perfected Level 4 Mountain-Pressing Palm gives damage worth twelve times the strength!

With 150,000 points of strength escalating to 1.8 million points!

pounds punch force equals 10 strength points.

1.8 million points of strength equals 18 million pounds!

9,000 tons!

One punch can penetrate heavy tank armor!

What's the concept?

Heavy tank composite armor offers protection equivalent to 500-600mm of homogenous steel plate!

Without anti-tank weapons, even simultaneous fire from 150mm firearms can't do much.

The defensive capability of elite-level fierce beasts' bodies is about the same.

"This is too exaggerated."

Chen Fan felt unreal.

Can he really punch through elite-level fierce beasts barehanded?

It felt like a dream.

But this is what combining Body Refinement and Qi Cultivation achieves.

Both paths can be pursued individually to gain unimaginable power.

Although the difficulty varies.

But if someone walks both paths simultaneously, the challenge multiplies geometrically, consuming immense time and effort.

Many thus only dabble briefly.

But if persisted and succeeded, the resulting enhancement is beyond imagining for those who walk only one path.

Chen Fan took a deep breath; in the Martial Arts Association, perhaps he was the only one walking this path.

If one solely cultivates Qi, perfecting this martial art, one palm strike still yields damage equivalent to twelve times strength, which is significant.

An average Meridian Refining Martial Artist has at least one or two thousand strength points, and can burst forth one or two tens of thousands in strength, comparable to the Thousand Forms Divine Skill.

That might be why these two martial arts can be equally matched.

Is this all there is?

Chen Fan was skeptical.

Because the [Thousand Forms Divine Skill] is purely a Body Refining martial art, not a fist and kick martial art.

A Thousand Forms Divine Skill practitioner may have less True Qi than others but certainly not none.

If the practitioner uses other fist and kick martial arts with the power of Thousand Forms Divine Skill?

The power would probably multiply.

How can Mountain-Pressing Palm compete?

"It must have more powerful palm technique secret skills!"

Chen Fan asserted.

Chapter 262: Comprehending Sword Intent

Thinking this way, Chen Fan added another 360 experience points.

Except for a warm current flowing through his body, there were no other changes.

Chen Fan was not surprised either. If he guessed correctly, that trait could only be unlocked at the Perfection Realm.

He spent another 720 experience points, and the skill level of [Ten Thousand Palm Divine Skill] reached the Great Success Realm.

It was still the same three traits as before.

Chen Fan couldn't help but take a deep breath.

Let's see this time.

He consumed nearly 1,500 experience points.

In an instant, a white light flashed through his mind.

He quickly looked at the skill bar,

[Ten Thousand Palm Divine Skill: Perfection (cannot be improved), Traits: Steel Bones Level 5, Strength of One Ox Level 5, Mountain-Pressing Palm Level 3, Ten Thousand Paths Divine Palm Level 1]

[Ten Thousand Paths Divine Palm: Active skill, consumes 10,000 True Qi, condenses into a three-meter-high palm seal, inflicting damage up to twenty times the practitioner's strength value, the farther the distance, the lower the damage, for each level increased, True Qi consumption doubles, and damage increases by an additional ten times]

"Twenty times the strength value."

Chen Fan glanced at his own strength attribute.

That means, if he unleashes this palm at his peak state, the palm force can reach 30,000 tons!

Previously, the 10,000-ton Mountain-Pressing Palm could only create a large hole, severely injure, and knock back a top elite fierce beast unless it hit the vital point.

Ten Thousand Paths Divine Palm, even if it doesn't hit the vital point, can kill with one slap as long as it hits!

Because Ten Thousand Paths Divine Palm not only surpasses Mountain-Pressing Palm's eightfold base strength increase,

but also has a significant change in the palm seal.

Just like his current strength, comparable to an elite-level fierce beast,

an elite-level fierce beast's punch can penetrate an entire wall,

a slap can lift a two to three-story building,

his punch can only break through one wall,

the difference in traits is evident.

Mountain-Pressing Palm can condense True Qi into a more than one-meter-high palm seal, with stronger destructive power.

Ten Thousand Paths Divine Palm can condense into a three-meter palm seal, a palm seal as high as one floor, pushing it forward, easily destroying a two to three-story building.

Chen Fan showed a smile on his face, he just knew this palm technique wasn't that simple.

This trait is the essence of this martial art, which can be seen from its name.

Moreover, from the perspective of True Qi consumption, Ten Thousand Paths Divine Palm is also more cost-effective.

It only requires 10,000 True Qi to exert twenty times the strength of the palm force.

A Level 4 Mountain-Pressing Palm can exert twelve times the power of the palm force, consuming 8,000 True Qi already.

"However, with my current True Qi, it seems I can't use it?"

Chen Fan couldn't help but laugh and cry.

After all, his current True Qi value is just over 9,000, still a bit short of 10,000 points.

"Anyway, these two prerequisite martial arts for Dragon Elephant Wisdom Skill are finally mastered, and the effect is unexpectedly quite good."

Chen Fan thought to himself.

Thousand Forms Divine Skill enhances the strength attribute.

Ten Thousand Palm Divine Skill uses the martial artist's strength as a base, increasing the palm technique's power tenfold or twentyfold.

Therefore, the resulting Dragon Elephant Wisdom Skill might not only raise the strength to the power of ten dragons and ten elephants,

but also include extremely dominant palm technique secret skills!

He took a deep breath and clicked on complete martial arts.

Because both martial arts were at the Perfection state, it only took less than three days to complete, twice as fast as the previous [Vajra Indestructible Divine Skill].

"As for fist and kick martial arts, Ten Thousand Palm Divine Skill is sufficient for now. Next, I need to learn a saber martial art. The remaining time should be used for learning heart methods, otherwise, with insufficient True Qi, I can't even use Ten Thousand Paths Divine Palm once."

Chen Fan felt a bit helpless.

True Qi is to a martial artist what money is to a man, without money, one can't move an inch.

His gaze fell on [Windward Slash].

This was previously purchased for 3,000 points from the Awakened Association.

It is undoubtedly a top-level martial art.

He decided to consume one experience point to level up.

The skill level increased by one forty-thousandth.

"???"

Chen Fan was stunned.

No way?

One forty-thousandth?

So, just to reach entry level, it requires 40,000 experience points?

And that's with a 20% discount, plus the reduction from Basic Saber Technique.

After hesitating for a while, he still decided to learn it.

So what if it's 40,000 points? Even after learning it, there are still fifty to sixty thousand experience points left.

He ruthlessly added the remaining more than 30,000 experience points,

A feeling he had never had before surged up.

In his eyes, the alloy war saber on the desk seemed no longer an inanimate object,

but a living thing that breathes and speaks.

"Could this be Saber Intent?"

This thought jumped into Chen Fan's mind,

Then, with a jolt, he looked at the skill panel,

[Windward Slash: Perfection (cannot be improved), Traits: Bone-Piercing Blade Intent Level 1, Windward Slash Level 1]

"It reached Perfection directly?"

Chen Fan was shocked to see the realm behind it.

So, this martial art has no entry level?

It's either Completely Ignorant or Perfection?

This is too extreme.

He chuckled helplessly and continued to look down.

Two traits, and the first one is Blade Intent!

He quickly clicked it open.

[Bone-Piercing Blade Intent: When wielding blade weapons, each slash carries bone-piercing coldness, the larger the difference in Spiritual Value between both parties, the higher the effect, up to a maximum of halving the opponent's reaction speed, for each level increased, the effectiveness doubles]

[Windward Slash: Consumes 10,000 True Qi and 1,000 Spiritual Power, unleashes a five-meter-high sharp Sword Qi, the power of the saber technique increases tenfold, Sword Qi contains Blade Intent, locking onto the opponent, making it impossible to dodge, for each doubling of True Qi and Spiritual Power consumption, the power of the saber technique increases by an additional tenfold, up to fifty times, for each level increased, the size of the Sword Qi increases by one meter]

"So this is Blade Intent."

Chen Fan realized and subsequently felt ecstatic.

This Blade Intent adds no bonus to himself but is extremely deadly to the opponent.

After all, in a contest between masters, a 10% speed impact can determine the victor.

Not to mention halving the speed, how could one fight like this?

What's most heaven-defying is that this is passive.

It activates just by using a saber.

"Perhaps it's because of this Bone-Piercing Blade Intent that this martial art's entry threshold is so high?"

Chen Fan figured out the details from before.

For practitioners, without comprehending Bone-Piercing Blade Intent, they can't learn [Windward Slash].

If they suddenly comprehend Bone-Piercing Blade Intent, they can instantly learn this saber technique.

It can be said to be a nightmare for those with mediocre qualifications, and most suitable for geniuses.

"I suppose this Bone-Piercing Blade Intent is just one kind among various Blade Intents, but, though Blade Intent is good, mastering one is enough for me."

Chen Fan smiled bitterly.

Because he doesn't have that much experience points to use on weapon martial arts.

Besides, if the saber has Blade Intent, then fist and kick martial arts may have similar True Meaning of Fist.

As long as enough fist techniques are learned, a seemingly ordinary punch might contain five, six, seven, eight, or nine kinds of fist intent.

His gaze fell on the next trait.

Windward Slash.

Tenfold saber power.

At first glance, it seems similar to the tenfold strength palm technique, but in fact, it's far different.

Because, in most cases, the power of weapons far exceeds the power of fists and kicks.

The most crucial point,

is that, unlike fist and kick martial arts, where the influencing factors are limited and mainly affected by the martial artist's strength, it's extremely difficult to further enhance the existing base,

the power of weapons has many influencing factors, the martial artist's strength is just one of them,

to enhance the saber technique's power, the simplest way is just to get a more powerful weapon.

Take Ten Thousand Palm Divine Skill as a comparison,

A tenfold Mountain-Pressing Palm with a palm seal over a meter high may not necessarily kill a top elite fierce beast instantly.

But a five-meter-high Sword Qi will definitely do so.

This is just in the initial form.

In the highest form,

a slash with fifty times the power, although it's still a five-meter high Sword Qi, could likely kill a commander-level fierce beast in one hit.

Of course, such a powerful Sword Qi comes with terrifying consumption.

Consuming 10,000 True Qi, quadrupling it continuously, 160,000 True Qi is needed to unleash this slash.

"No wonder it's a top-level martial art."

Chen Fan sighed, his anticipation for those two martial arts currently in the completion state increased even more.

As for now, his gaze fell on the stack of heart methods.

Among them, some are worth one to two hundred points, and some are worth three to four hundred points, seven to eight hundred points.

There are also several worth over a thousand points.

For example, [Bone Changing], [Bright Jade Skill], [Marriage Robe Divine Skill],

Unfortunately, most of them are incomplete.

But the seven to eight hundred points inner power heart methods are mostly complete.

"Heart methods worth one to two hundred points should be basic heart methods, three to four hundred points might be relatively advanced, and seven to eight hundred should be first-class inner power heart methods."

Chen Fan thought to himself.

Based on the previous Golden Bell Shield, its True Qi increase should be roughly at the advanced heart method level.

Seven to eight hundred points first-class heart methods might provide an additional 30% increase in True Qi,

But there's a problem, and that is difficulty.

The more powerful the heart method, the greater the increase, and the harder it is to learn.

The previously learned Qianyuan Skill, One Breathing Technique, are basic heart methods. Getting one to the Perfection Realm would consume at least 5,000 experience points.

If advanced heart methods consume double the experience points, that's manageable.

If not, purely from the perspective of True Qi increase, it's not worth it.

To verify, Chen Fan found an advanced martial art to test.

[Frost Technique], costing 400 points.

This is an inner power heart method that converts True Qi into extreme cold energy.

In battle, Frost True Qi can hinder the opponent's True Qi flow, and even turn the opponent into an ice sculpture, but it's very difficult to practice, a slight mistake can lead to becoming an ice sculpture oneself.

Chapter 263: Anshan City, Here We Come!

"Let's use this martial art for an experiment first."

Chen Fan's mind moved, and he added a bit of experience points.

The proficiency of the Frost Technique increased by four hundred and eighty-one.

"Sure enough."

Chen Fan frowned.

He remembered that when he first started One Breathing Technique,

the experience points consumed were only 128 points,

Qianyuan Skill consumed slightly more, but it was also around 150 points.

But this Frost Technique, the entry-level experience points needed were three times more.

According to this trend, the entry-level experience points needed for those first-class Heart Methods might not be less than 2000 points.

"Let's see the effect."

He added the remaining four hundred points of experience value.

The True Qi within his body immediately changed.

Chen Fan's face slightly changed,

he felt that the True Qi within his body indeed increased,

but not as much as he imagined, only by thirty.

In other words, it only increased by one-tenth of the Primordial True Qi.

Could it be?

He hurriedly looked at the skill bar,

[Frost Technique: Initial Glimpse (0%), Traits: Qi Nourishing Level 1]

"Qi Nourishing..."

Seeing this trait, Chen Fan showed a bitter smile.

He initially thought it would be Qi Storage, which could increase the Primordial True Qi by twenty percent.

Now it seems, it might really be uncertain.

Or, the bonus brought by the Qi Storage Traits is the upper limit for first-class Inner Strength Heart Methods.

"In that case, I should be more steady and gradually improve from the most basic Heart Methods."

Chen Fan made up his mind.

Five thousand experience points can get an additional fifty percent True Qi bonus.

The remaining sixty thousand experience points can improve at least seven or eight more Heart Methods.

Moreover, it can unlock a lot of traits, which can be used to unlock those few incomplete top-level Heart Methods, sharpening the knife without delaying the chopping of wood.

[Liu Family Heart Technique]: Priced at one hundred points, it is said to be a martial art compiled by a Liu family based on various Heart Methods circulating in the martial world. Later, the family declined, and this Heart Method was sold by their descendants, it can significantly increase Inner Strength after cultivation.

After consuming almost three thousand experience points, this Heart Method was finally raised to Perfection Realm.

[Liu Family Heart Technique: Perfection (unimprovable), Traits: Blood Nurturing Level 5, Qi Nourishing Level 5, Breath Regulation Level 4, Body Protection Level 1]

All are very basic traits.

Even the Body Protection trait was unlocked only in the Perfection Realm.

But Qianyuan Skill could unlock it in the Great Success Realm.

"Another fifty percent of additional True Qi bonus."

Chen Fan slightly smiled,

looked at the True Qi bonus, which had reached 290%,

the total True Qi within his body also reached 11918 points.

His gaze fell on the next Heart Method,

[Vast Sea Heart Method]: Priced at one hundred and twenty points, it is said to be a Heart Method of a small sect. After cultivation, Inner Strength is like Jianghai, continuous and inexhaustible.

Chen Fan felt a hint of anticipation, but soon, it disappeared.

[Vast Sea Heart Method: Initial Glimpse (0%), Traits: Blood Nurturing Level 1, Qi Nourishing Level 1]

Inner Strength like Jianghai, continuous and inexhaustible, were all just boasts from the creator,

The True Qi bonus, isn't it just one percent?

After consuming around 3000 points of experience value, this Heart Method was also raised to Perfection Realm.

[Vast Sea Heart Method: Perfection (unimprovable), Traits: Blood Nurturing Level 5, Qi Nourishing Level 5, Breath Regulation Level 4, Qi Gathering Level 2]

There was indeed a new trait.

[Qi Gathering: Each level improvement increases True Qi recovery speed by one percent]

This trait is undoubtedly very powerful.

After all, there are just a few ways to recover True Qi.

Automatic recovery is very slow, previously, when Chen Fan's True Qi was only a few hundred points, it took two minutes to recover one point of True Qi, now how much, it needs verification.

Breath Regulation increases speed at least doubly, the highest can be four to five times, but in the state of Breath Regulation, you cannot move, let alone attack, so this method is not reliable during combat.

The third way is to consume elixirs, but it also takes time to recover.

"I wonder if the Qi Gathering traits of different Heart Methods can stack, if they can stack like the Qi Nourishing traits, it would be great."

Chen Fan muttered to himself.

At this moment, the True Qi within his body increased by another one hundred and fifty.

He continued to improve other Heart Methods.

Time passed by.

The experience value consumption decreased rapidly,

first three to four thousand points,

later four to five thousand,

then closer to six thousand points.

When the ninth Heart Method was fully enhanced, the remaining experience points were less than five thousand.

"Finally over."

Chen Fan exhaled, feeling somewhat unfinished.

Because the nine Inner Strength Heart Methods raised to Perfection Realm were all basic ones.

None like the Frost Technique was improved.

The unlocked traits were also similar, none gave him a bright new feeling like the previous Heart Methods.

Thinking about it, it was pretty normal, those were at least first-class martial arts, even top-level martial arts.

If these basic Heart Methods could compare, it would be strange.

There was indeed some surprise, one Heart Method unlocked the Qi Storage trait.

Providing twice the additional True Qi bonus,

plus the Qi Nourishing traits of eight other Heart Methods,

Chen Fan looked at the True Qi bar with excitement,

True Qi: 25670/3056 (+740%)

"Twenty-six thousand points of True Qi total."

Chen Fan smiled.

With such high True Qi value, besides the last three moves of the Windward Slash, other martial arts secret techniques could be performed without pressure.

If he could open several more meridians and consume more Cloud Jade Fruits, reaching ten thousand points might not be impossible.

Then, even the last move of the Windward Slash could be performed.

And the total level of the Qi Gathering trait was about ten.

Assuming the effect could stack, it could double the recovery speed of the True Qi within his body.

"Let's leave it at that."

After saying that, Chen Fan stood up and stretched his muscles.

Nearly thirty thousand points of experience value had been converted into his combat power.

Now, let alone Elite-level Fierce Beasts, even Commander-level ones he had the courage to fight against.

Next, perhaps it was time to rescue Meng Xue.

A gleam flashed in his eyes.

After all, Meng Xue's situation was unknown, staying there one more second meant facing more danger.

Previously, he thought that dealing with multiple C-level Awakened at the same time would be risky.

But now,

the opponent probably didn't even have the ability to hurt him,

while he had a hundred ways to kill them.

"Hmm."

Thinking about it, Chen Fan nodded,

let's go to Anshan City and rescue Meng Xue,

firstly, to fulfill the promise to Meng Yu,

secondly, rescuing Meng Xue would benefit him too,

although Meng Yu could foresee the future, her mastery of superpowers was too low, Meng Xue was different.

But no one knew what her condition was,

If the situation was such that she couldn't foresee the future anymore,

then so be it, just reuniting the sisters.

Chen Fan picked up his knife and went downstairs.

With the Great Success of the Golden Bell Shield and the bonus from the Thirteen Cross-Training Grand Protectors, he no longer needed Guardian Talismans.

He intended to give this item to his father and imprint a spirit mark on him.

But when he went downstairs, he found only his mother resting in the bedroom, his father and brother were not there.

"Probably went to the practice site."

Chen Fan had this guess.

He didn't disturb his mother, just left a mark on her and went out, heading to the practice 场.

The practice 场 was more lively than ever.

In the past, only adult men used to toughen their muscles here.

Now even children were practicing martial arts here.

Most were originally from Chen Family Stronghold, and some were originally local residents.

Through these days of interaction, they got along quite well, and laughter occasionally echoed from the practice场.

Chen Fan's eyes saw Meng Yu through the gaps in the crowd.

Her hair was wet with sweat, but she stood upright, focused, practicing the stance.

Until someone from the crowd shouted, "Xiaofan is here,"

The vast practice场 fell silent instantly,

and all eyes turned to him.

Surprise, eagerness, respect, but mostly awe,

because every move of Chen Fan gave them a sense of unfathomable depth.

Chen Fan smiled slightly at them.

The quiet atmosphere instantly relaxed.

Soon, father and son walked to one side.

Chen Fan handed the Guardian Talisman to his father.

Chen Guodong listened, his eyes widened.

This item could even withstand attacks from Elite-level Fierce Beasts?

In his mind, let alone Elite-level Fierce Beasts, even a High-level Fierce Beast was a terrifying existence.

"Xiaofan, this item?"

"Dad, just take it, this item doesn't have much effect on me."

Chen Fan laughed.

"Alright, alright."

Chen Guodong reached out and took it, holding it tightly.

He was curious about how powerful his son had become,

speaking of Elite-level Fierce Beasts, he seemed indifferent.

"Dad, you need to pay special attention to what I'm going to say next..."

Chen Fan explained the situation about the discovery of the evil cult.

"If any danger arises, call me immediately, I will rush over."

"Alright, alright, I understand."

Chen Guodong nodded continuously.

"That's all."

Chen Fan smiled, "I should get going now."

"Be careful."

Chen Guodong said reluctantly.

"Don't worry."

Chen Fan said, looking at the people in the practice场.

They met eyes.

Among them was Meng Yu,

her eyes were complicated, seemingly wanting to say something but hesitating.

"Everyone, continue, keep it up."

Chen Fan smiled and waved to them.

"Xiaofan..."

Everyone raised their hands, about to say something, but realized he had already disappeared.

Previously, it felt like a dream.

Chen Fan's figure moved like lightning towards Anshan City.

He didn't say anything to Meng Yu,  
because no one knew if there would be any accidents,  
instead of giving hope and then disappointment,  
better to bring the person back directly and give her a surprise.

#### Chapter 264: Is This Guy a Monster?

When Chen Fan arrived in Anshan City, the atmosphere in the air was noticeably different.

In the past, there were always many people around, and even some roadside stalls.

Now, these people were notably absent.

Even if there were pedestrians, they walked with their heads down, hurriedly, as if walking slowly would bring great disasters upon them.

"Brother Chen!"

At that moment, a voice suddenly rang out from the right front.

A man who appeared to be in his thirties quickly approached.

"Who are you?"

Chen Fan looked at the man in front of him with confusion.

"The chairman asked me to wait for you here."

The man said respectfully, "Something big happened in the city. The chairman was worried about disturbing you with a phone call, so he sent you several messages, but didn't get any replies. He then asked me to wait here and, if I saw you, to tell you not to wander off and go directly back to the base."

"Got it."

Chen Fan nodded, having a vague guess, but still asked, "What's the big news?"

The man looked around cautiously and said in a lowered voice, "The market is in trouble. I heard a Meridian Refining Realm expert with a saber broke in, killed several Transforming Force martial artists, and even kidnapped the manager Lu Yang."

"What?"

Chen Fan widened his eyes and feigned surprise.

"Yes!"

The man nodded heavily, "The City Lord's Mansion stands behind the market. It's said that someone has already notified the City Lord. I fear this is the calm before the storm."

He sighed lightly before urging, "Brother Chen, we should hurry back."

"Yes, you go back to the base first. I have some fierce beast materials to deliver to Brother Lin." Chen Fan smiled slightly.

"Alright, take care."

The man breathed a sigh of relief and turned towards the city gate.

"Quick action,"

Chen Fan thought to himself.

But he had anticipated this scenario when he took action.

After the man entered the city, Chen Fan went in.

His gaze first swept over the Martial Arts Association and then slowly moved upward, landing on the highest villa cluster.

That was where the C-level Awakeners lived, his destination.

Before going there, he had something to do.

He found a deserted corner, and accompanied by the sound of crunching noises,

the burly man who had previously stormed the market, holding a saber, slowly emerged from the shadows.

In the city, publicly killing C-level Awakeners, if such a thing spread, even the Martial Arts Association would have difficulty protecting him.

Even if they could, the favor would not be small, and he might have to refine pills for the Association later.

Since that's the case, it's better to eliminate this hidden threat from the beginning.

Don't even think of using bows or the Soul-Annihilating Finger, which could easily give away his identity from clues.

Fortunately, besides mastering bows and spirit secret techniques, he was also proficient in martial arts and a saber technique.

Even if he killed those C-level Awakeners in broad daylight,

he could turn around and disappear without a trace,

without worrying that someone would find him for revenge.

Chen Fan took a deep breath and activated Celestial Response.

The vast spiritual power instantly enveloped the entire Anshan City.

Tens of thousands of breaths were clearly perceived.

Most of the auras were very weak.

Clearly, they were ordinary people.

More than ten thousand auras were slightly stronger, likely Body Tempering and Muscle Refining Realm martial artists, also possibly including some Awakeners.

Several dozen auras were extremely strong.

A few felt very familiar to him, belonging to Sun Wei and Tu Yue.

More than twenty were stronger than them.

Especially the five auras at the mountain top.

If Sun Wei and the others were like fireflies in the night,

those five auras were like candles in the night, difficult not to notice.

"It seems Anshan City has gained another C-level Awakener in the past two years."

Chen Fan looked towards the highest villa.

His brows slightly furrowed.

One aura there was quite strong, but several surrounding it were extremely weak.

He looked in another direction,

where there was also a strong aura,

though it differed from the former,

seeming to be isolated.

There,

he looked towards a third villa,

where the auras were the most numerous, over thirty,

mostly Entry Force level,

plus four other auras,

one very strong,

two moderately weaker,

and the last one even weaker.

In the place with these four auras, there was also another aura.

This aura was very weak, even weaker than those of the ordinary people in the city, giving the impression of a candle in the wind, flickering and unsteady.

Chen Fan retracted his spiritual power, his gaze fixed on the third villa.

If he was correct, the extremely weak aura belongs to Meng Xue.

The reason was simple. He had killed the people at the market, and the news was reported to those C-level Awakeners.

Their first reaction would be to find Meng Xue to ask for the culprit's whereabouts.

Hence, there were many strong auras in one villa.

The surrounding thirty-plus guards also confirmed this from another perspective. Other villas did not have as many guards.

"It seems my previous actions indeed brought trouble to Meng Xue. Hopefully, I'm not too late."

After speaking, Chen Fan's figure flashed like a lightning bolt towards his destination.

On the road leading to the mountain top,

dozens of armed guards watched below,

when suddenly a violent wind blew through,

"Where did this strange wind come from?"

Someone adjusted his hat and muttered.

"Yes, quite strange."

The armed guards glanced around.

Seeing no abnormalities, they thought it was just their imagination.

They shook their heads and resumed their patrol.

At that moment, a figure appeared abruptly in front of a heavily guarded villa.

"Who are you!"

Several patrolling guards were startled and aimed their guns at the sturdy figure who had suddenly appeared.

"Who are you?"

"How did you get here?"

"What do you want? Drop your weapon and put your hands on your head, squat down!"

Several angry shouts rang out.

Chen Fan ignored them, his gaze fixed on the balcony on the second floor.

There, several figures were watching him through the window.

One figure, with white hair and a face full of wrinkles, looked at him with a flash of excitement.

"Looks like I found the right place."

Chen Fan breathed a sigh of relief.

"Did you not hear me?"

A middle-aged man shouted angrily, "I'll count to three. If you don't put down your weapon, we'll shoot you!"

"Three!"

"Two!"

"One!"

Chen Fan acted as if he did not hear, his gaze meeting the gazes of the figures on the second floor.

"Fire!"

The middle-aged man yelled.

The Lord City was watching from the second floor,

If he let this unknown person break in,

he would have to face the consequences with his life!

Instantly, gunfire erupted.

Dozens of light and heavy machine guns sprayed fire, bullets pouring rain-like onto Chen Fan.

"Dang dang dang dang! Dang dang dang dang!"

Crisp impact sounds rang out.

Bullets seemed to hit an iron wall, bouncing off, even injuring some guards who were shot by the ricocheting bullets, falling down with shocked faces.

"Captain, there's something strange about this guy!"

A guard noticed Chen Fan standing there unscathed and cried out in surprise.

"Captain, machine gun bullets don't work on him."

"Captain!"

"Bring out the cannons!"

The middle-aged man shouted.

"Boom boom boom boom!"

"Boom boom boom boom!"

Dull cannon sounds rang out.

Nearly ten Entry Force martial artists held various cannons, firing at Chen Fan.

"Ding ding dang dang!"

Again, crisp sounds rang out.

In the blink of an eye, over ten thousand cannon bullets were spent,

even a high-level fierce beast would be turned to mush,

but there was no scene of flesh and blood flying,

the figure remained standing,

the cannon-holding martial artists stepped back in shock.

How, how could this be?

Such strong firepower couldn't hurt him at all?

Is this guy a monster?

Or is he an Awakener like Lord Fang?

"Move aside!"

At that moment, the middle-aged man shouted,

carrying a rocket launcher on his shoulder,

as he spoke,

accompanied by a "whoosh" sound,

the rocket hit the target,

a huge fireball rose, followed by thick smoke,

even in broad daylight, it was very conspicuous.

This commotion soon alerted people in Anshan City,

tens of thousands looked towards the rising smoke, eyes filled with terror,

Was that a rocket explosion?

And there were so many cannon sounds earlier.

Why is there such a commotion near the City Lord's Mansion?

Could it be a fierce beast attack?

But it's broad daylight, where would fierce beasts come from?

Sun Wei stood by the office window, looking at the scene with a grim face.

The market incident happened in the morning,

less than an hour later,

such a big commotion occurred near the mountain top,

Can it really be such a coincidence?

"What happened?"

He nervously gripped his phone,

just then, hurried footsteps sounded from the door,

"Chairman! Chairman!"

"Chairman, did you hear the commotion outside?"

With a click, Xu Jie and others rushed in, their faces somewhat panicked.

"Chairman, upstairs..." Tu Yue hesitated to speak.

Sun Wei turned around and shook his head, "No matter what happened, given our strengths, we'd better not get involved blindly. Let's wait here, we should know soon what happened."

The group exchanged glances and nodded.

Yes, if things turned for the worse,

with their strength, going up would just mean death,

hopefully, if a battle broke out, the impact won't be too big.

Chapter 265: Super Gravity Cannon!

"Got him!"

"Captain, great job!"

"Wonderful, that guy must be dead this time!"

The guards, seeing this, all wore smiles of joy.

The middle-aged man also showed a hint of a smile on his face,

even though he had a feeling that the person in front of him might never have intended to dodge from the very beginning,

hitting him was still a good thing,

because even an elite-level fierce beast would have a big hole blasted through it from being hit by a rocket at such close range, not to mention a person.

Yet, when the smoke cleared and that figure reappeared in front of them, the smile on his face vanished instantly.

The atmosphere was dead silent.

The guards' eyes widened as if they had seen a ghost.

Hit by a rocket without a single scratch?

What kind of monster is this guy?

"This guy is not simple, is he?"

Gao Jinming's voice broke the tension on the second floor.

Although Meng Xue said that the attacker would appear here in three minutes,

none of those present, himself included, believed it,

because they thought, who would be foolish enough to walk right into this?

But, right after three minutes,

that person really appeared,

not only that, he withstood all the surrounding firepower,

he didn't even move his body,

his gaze always locked onto them,

as if to provoke them!

"Hmph, nothing special."

Fang Yun snorted coldly.

Just a single rocket,

such a petty trick, daring to show off in front of him?

"Captain?"

Outside the villa, a few men glanced at the middle-aged man carrying the rocket launcher,

"Again!"

The middle-aged man gritted his teeth,

remembering that the City Lord was upstairs,

he had to show a good performance!

But at that moment, the sound of something cutting through the air was heard.

The middle-aged man only had time to see a flash of white light before his head was separated from his body.

Not just him, the guards surrounding him also fell into pools of blood.

Chen Fan sheathed his sword,

The reason he hadn't attacked earlier was because he wanted to see the effect and consumption of the Protective Qi Skill.

The results showed that the effect was very strong,

and he only consumed a few dozen points of True Qi,

The main consumption came from the rocket hitting him, which instantly consumed 20 points of his True Qi.

But a mere 20 points, compared to his over 20,000 True Qi, was nothing.

Then, he raised his left hand and beckoned to the group opposite him.

As if to say, having dealt with them, it's now your turn.

"Arrogant!"

Fang Yun's eyes burned with rage,

"Brother Yan, let me deal with this guy."

It's just a mere Martial Artist, who practiced some body refining skills,

does he really think he's invincible?

"No rush."

Yan Ming's mouth twisted into a sneer, "It's rare we have such an interesting target. Killing him outright, wouldn't that be too dull?"

He said this as his figure flickered and appeared on the balcony outside,

the others also moved to his side.

Overlooking Chen Fan from above.

At that moment, a high-nosed, short-haired man appeared on the balcony.

He glanced around and then at Chen Fan before looking at Yan Ming, saying:

"Brother Yan, what's going on?"

"Nothing much, just a fool who doesn't know his limits."

"Oh? Is it him?"

The short-haired man's gaze fell on Chen Fan once more,

"Why don't I step in and kill him for you?"

"Ma Sheng, shouldn't we follow proper order?"

Fang Yun squinted at him.

"Really? Seeing this guy still standing here, I thought you had already dealt with him." Ma Sheng raised an eyebrow.

Yan Ming was about to say something when another figure appeared,

It was Du Hao, who had earlier been chatting by the pool.

"Quite the commotion, Brother Yan," he said with a smile, "Seems like you have a bit of trouble here, need a hand from your brother?"

"Sorry for the trouble, I didn't expect the noise to draw Brother Du."

Yan Ming smiled apologetically, "Brother Du, just watch, it's a minor issue, no need to bother you."

"Alright, since you said so, I'll just watch."

Du Hao said as he found a chair and sat down, looking down at the burly figure below with interest.

A Martial Artist with a knife?

In these times, just a Martial Artist,

daring to mess with Awakeners?

"Six."

Chen Fan narrowed his eyes.

If he guessed correctly, these two newcomers were the sources of the two auras he felt earlier?

But no matter how many, the result would be the same.

"I'm curious who gave you the courage to come here alone."

Yan Ming turned his gaze to Chen Fan, tilting his head, "Do you think you can challenge me with your strength?"

Chen Fan smiled, "No, I think my strength allows me to challenge all of you."

As he finished speaking,

even the bystander Du Hao's face turned grim.

This guy doesn't even put him in his eyes?

Fang Yun and Ma Sheng's eyes filled with killing intent.

Even He Changshu, who was hidden, gave Gao Jinming a questioning look,

It wasn't entirely due to provocation,

but they were friends with Yan Ming,

and they needed each other for the Celestial God Fruit later,

so they couldn't stand by idly now.

Gao Jinming shook his head.

Let Fang Yun and the others test this guy, then it wouldn't be too late to act.

"Is that so?"

Yan Ming laughed twice, then his face turned dark as water,

"Fine! Since you're seeking death, I'll grant you that wish."

"Ma Sheng, this guy's skin is tough, even took a rocket hit without issue, so you know what to do."

He looked at the short-haired man beside him.

"Brother Yan?"

Fang Yun looked surprised.

This guy should be his to handle.

"Leave it to me, Brother Yan."

Ma Sheng's lips curved into a smile, looking at Chen Fan, "I heard your skin is tough? Let's see how tough."

He raised his right hand, palm facing Chen Fan,

"Gravity Cannon!"

As soon as he said the words,

"Boom!"

There was a loud crash!

It seemed something fell heavily from above!

The area around where Chen Fan stood, a radius of two meters, instantly sank over a meter deep!

Dust flew everywhere, dense cracks spread like spider webs,

even the wall more than ten meters away collapsed with a crash,

and the villa shook violently.

"What's this!"

Du Hao, who had been watching, leaped up from his chair, staring dumbfounded at the deep pit.

A 120-mm howitzer would only create a pit three meters in diameter and 0.7 meters deep at most.

This pit was four meters in diameter and over a meter deep, rivaling the power of a 150-mm howitzer.

Who exactly is this Fang Sheng?

Everyone, except Fang Yun, including Yan Ming, looked serious.

If it weren't for their Guardian Talismans, being hit by that Gravity Cannon would be deadly.

"Is that all the strength you've got? Didn't you eat?"

A voice came from the pit.

"What!"

The expressions on everyone's faces changed.

Including Ma Sheng,

His Gravity Cannon could flatten an elite-level fierce beast like the Fire Scaly Pig,

yet this guy was unscathed?

"Can you use a bit more strength?"

Chen Fan yawned.

"If this is all you've got, I'll have to make a move."

He looked at the skill bar's Basic Body Technique.

He initially wanted to see how much True Qi would be consumed to withstand this attack.

The results showed less than 100 points consumed, and he even gained something unexpected.

During the pressure from above, his Basic Body Technique leveled up ten levels quickly.

Although no traits were unlocked, a higher Basic Body Technique reduces the experience points needed for future body techniques and increases the cultivation technique cap at certain levels.

So, he didn't mind playing a bit more.

"Ma Sheng, do you have what it takes?"

Fang Yun sneered, "If not, let me handle it."

"Why rush!"

Ma Sheng was agitated, "I'm just warming up."

He turned to Chen Fan, gritting his teeth, "I wanted to leave you whole, but since you're ungrateful, I'll obliterate you!"

"Super Gravity Cannon!"

"Boom!"

Another loud crash,

The area Chen Fan stood in collapsed instantly,

From his position, a radius of three meters seemed as if a massive cylindrical object had smashed down, creating a crater over three meters deep,

The violent impact made the whole Anshan City quake slightly, untold people fell on the streets,

A ten-meter radius around the crater crumbled with a roaring sound, raising dust that blotted out the sky,

Over a dozen gigantic cracks, each more than a meter deep and half a meter wide, extended rapidly in all directions,

"You forced me! You forced me! Hahaha!"

Ma Sheng laughed wildly, displaying his true strength!

This blow could severely injure or kill an elite-level fierce beast like the Fire Scaly Pig.

Usually, it was hard to hit them due to their speed.

Du Hao, standing aside, couldn't speak as he looked at the massive crater,

This is the power of a C-level Awakener?

Anshan City has such a powerful Awakener?

A flicker of fear crossed Yan Ming's eyes. He didn't let Fang Yun act because he wanted to test Ma Sheng's growth.

It shows he's become stronger!

If hit by that Super Gravity Cannon, his Guardian Talisman would probably break.

Fang Yun's face grew serious.

If it were him, could he withstand that Super Gravity Cannon?

If he could, how many hits could he take?

"That guy must be dead."

Gao Jinming breathed a sigh of relief, seeing Chen Fan hit directly.

Is there still a question of life or death?

He glanced at the group, counting six.

No, there should be seven!

His pupils suddenly widened, feeling a chill, quickly asking:

"Where's Meng Xue? Didn't you bring her out?"

"What?"

The others' expressions changed, glancing around, indeed not seeing Meng Xue.

They all looked at the ruins in front, could it be?

Meng Xue's constitution was worse than ordinary people. If she didn't get out, she likely...

"No, I clearly saw someone take her when the villa collapsed." Fang Yun frowned, "I planned to take her, but saw someone else do it, so I didn't."

"Right, I noticed too, assumed it was you guys."

"Me too."

They looked at each other, cold sweat dripping.

If they didn't take Meng Xue, who did?

Chapter 266: Did You Really Think I Was Unaware of Your Existence?

Several kilometers away.

Chen Fan gently placed Meng Xue on the ground, letting her lean against a tree.

This was a small grove, and for a short time, no one would come by.

"Are you alright?"

He looked into her eyes and said, "You should know who I am?"

Meng Xue nodded, looking at Chen Fan with eyes full of gratitude.

"Thank you. My sister survived thanks to your care."

"No need to thank me. Let's save the rest for later," Chen Fan stood up and said, "I'll handle those people first."

"Wait a moment."

Meng Xue grabbed Chen Fan's sleeve, hesitated, and said, "How about we end it here for today?"

"End it here?"

Chen Fan looked at her in surprise, "They've hurt you this badly, and you can forgive them? Or do you think I'm not their match?"

"No."

Meng Xue smiled bitterly and said, "I know they're no match for you. But if you kill them all, it will cause a lot of trouble."

"Cause a lot of trouble?"

Chen Fan frowned and asked, "Do you think not killing them will avoid trouble?"

Meng Xue was stunned.

Yes, the others already knew Guan Dehua's disappearance was related to the Chen Family Stronghold.

Even if they left now, it was only a matter of time before they were found.

"But..."

She wanted to say something more, but Chen Fan had already disappeared from sight.

"..."

She smiled bitterly again.

She didn't have time to remind Chen Fan about the superpower of the person chasing them.

But it seemed it didn't matter whether she reminded him or not.

By the large pit.

Yan Ming and the others' faces were extremely grim.

Could it be that Meng Xue was rescued?

But among those present, besides them, there was another person!

Yan Ming shuddered, his eyes fixed on the pit below.

His intuition told him that under such an attack, even a top-level elite-level fierce beast would die. But that person was human.

What if he, too, had defensive items like they did?

What if he withstood the attack and then rescued Meng Xue amidst the chaos...

The dust settled.

The pit below was empty.

Not a trace of blood.

"How can this be!"

Ma Sheng's eyes widened in disbelief as he looked at his companions,

"I clearly hit him. I hit him!"

Except for Du Hao, the others' faces were extremely grim.

This idiot.

Now is not the time to argue about whether he hit it or not.

"We've been duped."

Gao Jinming's face was dark as he said, "This guy came here not to duel with us but to rescue Meng Xue. He and Meng Xue are together!"

Otherwise, why didn't Meng Xue say anything earlier about what happened after that person arrived?

It wasn't that she couldn't say it because of her body; it was because she wasn't allowed to say it!

"Damn it!"

Fang Yun, seething with rage, knelt on one knee and punched the ground, creating a half-meter deep pit.

"Well played, Meng Xue."

Yan Ming regretted deeply.

Who could have imagined that after hunting so many geese, one day, he would get pecked in the eye by a goose.

Had he known, he would have let Fang Yun act or even acted himself. That way, he wouldn't have let that guy seize the opportunity to fish in troubled waters.

But there were some things he couldn't figure out, like how Meng Xue managed to send out the message and who was the person who came to save her.

Off to the side, Du Hao seemed thoughtful.

Meng Xue?

Wasn't she that old woman with white hair who looked too weak to even truss a chicken?

She didn't seem to have any special qualities. Why did Yan Ming and the others care so much?

"Transmit the order for a city-wide lockdown!"

Yan Ming's gaze swept over Ma Sheng and the others, "You all come with me. They can't have gone far!"

"No need for that."

At this moment, a familiar voice sounded, "I'm right here."

Chen Fan stood a dozen meters away, holding his saber and looking at them nonchalantly.

The person with the gravity superpower had just fired a super gravity cannon, directly boosting his Basic Body Technique by nearly twenty levels!

He wasn't keen on killing him so quickly.

"What!"

They were all shocked.

This guy didn't leave?

A surge of anger rose in their hearts simultaneously.

This guy really didn't take them seriously!

"Tell me, where did you hide Meng Xue?"

Yan Ming glared at Chen Fan, his eyes looking as if they would devour him alive.

"What Meng Xue? What are you talking about?"

Chen Fan let out a mocking laugh and then, looking at Ma Sheng, taunted, "I mean, do you even have what it takes? That gravity cannon or whatever, is really just scratching an itch, can't you put in some effort?"

"You!"

Ma Sheng almost exploded from rage.

He couldn't care less about what Yan Ming and the others were saying behind him.

The next moment, he directly raised his right hand, palm aimed at Chen Fan.

"Die, you bastard!"

As the words fell,

"Boom!"

A thunderous explosion.

Where Chen Fan stood, a large pit six meters in diameter and three meters deep instantly appeared.

Along with several meters around it all collapsed.

It was as if the previous scene was happening again.

But at this moment, there was another thunderous explosion!

"Boom!"

Another super gravity cannon.

Above the pit, it seemed as if a gigantic cylindrical object descended like a huge hammer, smashing into the ground.

The entire ground trembled,

The cars parked dozens of meters away even bounced several meters high,

As soon as they landed again, there was another loud crash,

And the cars bounced seven or eight meters high again!

In Anshan City, almost everyone looked towards the mountain top, eyes filled with panic,

What in the world was going on?

What happened?

Why was there such a commotion on the mountain top?

Could something have happened to that group of Awakeners?

On the mountain top, the area where Chen Fan originally stood had become a giant pit with a radius of over ten meters,

Especially at the center, it was seven or eight meters deep, almost as high as a three-story building,

The billowing dust shot up into the sky, visible even from kilometers away.

"Huff, huff..."

Ma Sheng stood in the pit, panting heavily.

His face was deathly pale, sweat pouring down like rain from his forehead.

Three consecutive super gravity cannons drained all his spiritual power,

But it was all worth it,

Yan Ming and the others exchanged glances.

One minute earlier,

They wouldn't have doubted that the one with the knife was dead beyond any doubt,

But now, they weren't so sure.

"This time was rather sloppy."

A figure leaped out of the pit with a swoosh and landed on the ground.

Except for being a bit dusty, he was no different from before.

"Impossible!"

Ma Sheng's face looked as if he had seen a ghost,

He plopped down on the ground,

His eyes showed fear.

Even a top-level elite-level fierce beast hit by three consecutive super gravity cannons would be dead,

But this guy in front of him took three hits and still looked unscathed,

Is this guy even human?

Is he really human?

"What are you still standing there for?"

Chen Fan frowned, "Aren't you trying to kill me? Hurry up and make your move."

The three hits just now boosted his Basic Body Technique by more than thirty levels,

Including the previous two hits, it increased by more than sixty levels.

This efficiency even surpassed training alone, even in the gravity room.

Although the gains became smaller,

At least it still boosted a few levels each time. Maybe with a few more hits, his Basic Body Technique could reach level 100.

"You, you..."

Ma Sheng pointed at Chen Fan, speechless.

He no longer had the courage to attack.

Fang Yun's face was equally pale,

He thought he could withstand one super gravity cannon,

But three in a row,

He would certainly die.

But the guy in front of him could take three hits without a scratch,

Was he really his match?

Yan Ming glanced at Gao Jinming before focusing on Chen Fan and asked:

"Who exactly are you?"

"It seems I don't need to ans..."

Halfway through his sentence, a black light appeared silently behind Chen Fan,

Then, with extreme speed, it aimed at Chen Fan's heart.

"!"

Ma Sheng's eyes lit up with joy,

It's that guy!

He's finally making a move!

Great!

Gao Jinming's lips curved slightly.

The glance Yan Ming gave him, indicating they wanted He Changshu to act.

Indeed, He Changshu couldn't rival Ma Sheng in terms of sheer power.

As long as he bought a moment, Ma Sheng could kill elite-level fierce beasts as easily as eating and drinking.

He Changshu couldn't do that, and he might even land himself in danger.

But against smaller enemies, He Changshu was terrifyingly effective.

Firstly, his superpower was invisibility, entirely undetectable, even to Du Hao,

who had no idea,

there was another person here!

Secondly, his dagger Black Shark, worth nearly ten thousand points, was a Tier Four Alloy Battle Saber,

Enough to easily cut through elite-level fierce beasts' hide, even commander-level ones!

He himself was a True Essence Realm Martial Artist, mastering the saber technique [Cyan Dragon Emerges from the Sheath] to Perfection Realm!

Thirdly, his timing,

was impeccable,

Combining these three factors,

This guy was definitely dead!

He Changshu's gaze was icy cold,

with no emotion,

since this wasn't his first kill,

and he had never failed.

As the dark blade was about to pierce the target's body,

"Snap"

Chen Fan unexpectedly turned and grabbed his wrist tightly with his left hand,

pulling He Changshu from thin air with a mocking smile, "Did you really think I didn't know there was someone else here?"

Chapter 267: You are in the True Essence Realm!!!

As the words fell, the scene was deathly silent.

No one expected that this deadly move, which was supposed to be a sure win, was easily neutralized by Chen Fan.

Even He Changshu was directly captured by the other party!

"You!"

He Changshu's eyes were wide open.

"Surprised?"

Chen Fan stared into his eyes coldly, "You know, I originally didn't want to kill you, but unfortunately, you are seeking death."

He was not lying,

because Meng Yu had said before,

out of the four Awakened in Anshan City,

only the guy with Invisibility,

never forced Meng Xue,

but since the other party had already made a move against him,

he wouldn't show mercy.

"Changshu, run!"

Gao Jinming shouted hysterically,

because He Changshu did not have a Protective Talisman on him.

He advised him many times that those who often walk by the river inevitably get their shoes wet, but He Changshu always dismissed it and thought he didn't need such things, and instead preferred to spend points on increasing his strength.

Now, it's over!

He Changshu also had a feeling of imminent disaster,

He desperately tried to escape,

but Chen Fan's left hand was like a steel claw, making it impossible to break free.

Amidst the anxious gazes of everyone,

the long saber in Chen Fan's right hand suddenly disappeared,

his empty right hand, carrying a whistling airflow, slapped toward He Changshu's chest.

He did not use any Palm Technique Secret Skill because it was unnecessary.

Even if the other party had a Protective Talisman, he could use his sheer muscle strength to break the shield with a few slaps, and a few slaps for him would be a matter of moments.

As for Instant Teleportation, he wasn't worried because he was holding the other party's hand.

"Stop!"

Yan Ming shouted.

Before he could finish speaking,

"Boom!"

A loud explosion.

Hundreds of tons of palm force shot into He Changshu's body,

instantly turning his body into a mist of blood,

leaving only half an arm intact.

Yan Ming and the others were like they had been struck by lightning, standing in shock,

He Changshu, just like that, was dead?

What about his Protective Talisman?

Didn't he wear a Protective Talisman?

Chen Fan also paused for a moment, then took the black dagger in his hand and threw the half arm away.

This dagger had given him a dangerous feeling just now.

Looking at it now, it was indeed extraordinary. Could it be a Tier Four Alloy weapon?

If he used this dagger with the Windward Slash, the power would be many times stronger than when he used his Tier Two Alloy Battle Saber.

As for detecting He Changshu's sneak attack, it was simple,

when he was at the foot of the mountain, he clearly sensed,

four presences around Meng Xue,

but upon arrival, only three people were visible,

what did this imply?

Thus, he immediately entered Perception mode and marked the opponent.

In this way, without constant Perception, he could still detect the opponent's movements.

In other words,

the sneaky move the opponent thought was undetectable, sneaking around behind him,

was laughable in his eyes.

He gripped the newly gotten dagger,

and said to the few people before him:

"Since you all don't play by the rules, then I won't hold back anymore either."

As he spoke, he looked at Ma Sheng sitting at the front, and Fang Yun and Yan Ming behind,

the three most powerful among the remaining five on the opposite side,

standing together,

so it was best to settle it with one strike.

He raised his right hand, lifting the saber above his head, then slashed down!

A five-meter-tall giant blade of Saber Qi sliced forward at an incredible speed.

The sharp Saber Qi merely scraped the ground, cutting a groove over a meter deep,

even from ten meters away, it made the Protective Talismans on several people glow.

"What is that!"

Seeing the nearly two-story-high giant Saber Qi,

their shock was beyond words,

Could a Martial Artist in the Meridian Refining Realm achieve this?

"Run!"

Du Hao and Gao Jinming, after a brief moment of hesitation, quickly fled to the side.

"True Essence Realm!"

Du Hao looked at Chen Fan, his mouth agape.

Such enormous Saber Qi, how could a Meridian Refining Martial Artist possibly produce it?

True Essence Realm!

The guy in front must be a True Essence Realm Martial Artist!

Indeed, if not a True Essence Realm Martial Artist, how could he confidently come alone knowing there were several C-level Awakened here?

But, was this True Essence Realm Martial Artist from near Anshan City,

or from a nearby medium-sized city?

"That was close."

Gao Jinming breathed a sigh of relief.

Despite the Saber Qi's terrifying appearance,

its attack range was limited,

as long as one avoided its path.

Suddenly, he froze,

because he saw Yan Ming and the other two standing still!

And the Saber Qi was about to reach them!

"What, what's happening?"

Gao Jinming's eyes widened.

Were they scared stiff?

Why weren't they moving? They should dodge!

In fact, it wasn't that Yan Ming and the others didn't want to move, they simply could not.

It seemed as if countless chains around them had locked all the possible dodging spaces.

The most exaggerated part was,

even Instant Teleportation Items were ineffective!

"How can this be!"

Yan Ming was frightened.

He knew that in some places, due to different Space Laws, Association-made Instant Teleportation Items would fail.

But how could it fail here?

This is Anshan City!

The giant Saber Qi was about to reach.

Yan Ming gritted his teeth, taking out the remaining Guardian Talismans from his Space Items,

including the one around his neck,

all of them were his prized possessions,

they could withstand attacks from Commander-level Fierce Beasts,

and he spent nearly all his accumulated points over the years to acquire them,

so, he didn't believe he would die here!

While Fang Yun, after realizing he couldn't escape, roared,

his body covered in a silvery metal layer,

glittering under the scorching sun,

his Superpower was Metalization,

at different levels, the metal color varied,

at first, it was Black Iron Level, able to resist rifle bullets,

at Bronze Level, it could block heavy machine guns and even cannons,

Silver Level, could withstand grenade launchers and even Elite-level Fierce Beast attacks, causing at most a knockback without injury,

at Gold Level, it could endure missile attacks.

Apparently, he was currently at Silver Level.

"Bring it on!"

He stared at the giant Saber Qi with determined eyes,

he didn't believe,

that his defense,

couldn't block this strike!

As for Ma Sheng, sitting in the front, his mind went blank,

completely losing the ability to think.

The giant Saber Qi roared in,

a Protective Shield appeared before Ma Sheng,

it shattered in less than a second,

the Saber Qi split him in half,

blood gushed like a fountain.

"Screech! Screech!"

Fang Yun's metal body suddenly burst with dozens of slender wounds, blood spraying out,

and as the distance closed, the wounds widened,

"How is this possible!"

Fang Yun was shocked.

There was still almost a meter between him and the Saber Qi!

His metal body was already breaking up,

what would happen when the Saber Qi reached him...

"No, I won't die! I won't die!"

Fang Yun roared,

his Spiritual Power surged,

covering the wounds with metal again, glowing silvery.

At this moment, the five-meter Saber Qi reached him with an unstoppable force,

"Clang!"

A metallic ring echoed,

the Saber Qi collided with the metal body.

Sparks flew,

"Ahhh!!!"

Fang Yun roared in pain.

A second later, the roar ceased.

Fang Yun was split in two, collapsed to the ground,

his once metal body,

returned to flesh and blood.

Witnessing this, Gao Jinming felt a chill run through his body,

if even Fang Yun couldn't block it,

could Yan Ming?

If Yan Ming couldn't block it...

Gao Jinming looked around, contemplating retreat.

"Clang!"

A loud noise!

Saber Qi clashed fiercely with the Guardian Talismans' shields,

the shield dimming visibly.

The Talisman around his neck,

cracked audibly.

"This guy!"

Yan Ming was astounded,

this Talisman could withstand Commander-level Fierce Beast attacks?

Two or three seconds later, with a crisp "crack,"

the Talisman shattered into pieces,

and the five-meter Saber Qi shrank to just over four meters, about to advance further when,

another Protective Shield appeared.

"There's more."

Chen Fan squinted his eyes.

But it made sense,

as the City Lord of Anshan City,

his points must be much more than everyone else combined,

he even suspected,

the Talismans on him,

could block attacks from more than just Elite-level Fierce Beasts.

"Thanks to this new dagger."

Chen Fan thought thankfully.

This slash, the first of the Windward Slash, had a tenfold power boost, yet was so mighty.

He checked his remaining True Qi, due to activating the Martial Art "Burst" and the previous slash, he had slightly over ten thousand left.

Fortunately, it was enough.

Soon, more Talisman breaking sounds heard,

the five-meter Saber Qi shrank to three meters.

Seeing this, Yan Ming finally sighed in relief,

though Fang Yun's fate shook him,

these Talismans were reassuring, worth the high cost.

With three Talismans left,

he could block this slash,

then it'd be his turn!

His battle strength was equal to a B-level Awakened!

Du Hao also heaved a sigh,

fearing Yan Ming's death,

making this trip futile.

This True Essence Realm Martial Artist,

this slash's power was indeed strong,

but it was likely his limit?

"Crack!"

With the third Talisman shattering,

the five-meter Saber Qi was now just one meter,

disappearing against the Protective Shield.

Yan Ming's heart bled, but he mocked, "Is that all your strength? Not bad, but still far from killing me."

"Oh?"

Chen Fan chuckled, lifting the saber again.

"If one slash can't kill, then let's do another."

As his words ended, including Yan Ming, their faces changed dramatically.

Chapter 268: Slaying Yan Ming

"Impossible!"

Du Hao blurted out.

Among the True Essence Realm Martial Artists he had encountered, those who could execute that previous strike were few and far between.

Let alone, to be able to strike again!

But Chen Fan couldn't be bothered to waste words,

he directly raised the dagger in his right hand above his head, the blade pointing to the sky,

a large portion of True Qi within his body instantly vanished,

then, under Yan Ming's frantic gaze,

he slashed down heavily,

a massive Sword Qi identical to the previous one appeared,

carrying a momentum that crushed everything forward.

"Thud, thud, thud!"

Du Hao staggered back a few steps, the shock in his eyes reached an unprecedented level.

If he wasn't sure this wasn't a dream,

he truly wanted to pinch his leg forcefully.

As for Gao Jinming beside him, his mind went completely blank, losing all ability to think.

"Damn it!"

Yan Ming gritted his teeth,

the feeling of having nowhere to go recurred,

he still had two Protective Talismans in his hand,

definitely not enough to block this strike,

could it be that today he would die here?

"No! I've already survived such difficult times, how could I die now, especially at the hands of a Martial Artist!"

Yan Ming's heart was filled with unwillingness, since he couldn't evade, he would fight to the end!

He placed his hands in front, palms facing each other, a football-sized fireball rapidly took shape,

and it continued to grow at a fast pace,

in the blink of an eye, it reached the size of a basin,

but clearly, the transformation was not yet finished.

Yan Ming clenched his teeth, desperately drawing on the Spiritual Power in his brain,

his palms changed to a lifting position,

lifting a fireball close to three meters in diameter,

seeing the Sword Qi about to reach him,

Yan Ming let out a roar, directly thrusting the fireball forward,

"Boom!"

A loud explosion!

The fireball collided violently with the Sword Qi,

waves of energy rolled,

the ground beneath Yan Ming's feet caved in over a meter deep,

countless flames shot out like stray bullets in all directions,

"Block it for me!"

Yan Ming's eyes turned red, his roar sounded like a beast.

The clothes on his arms had been completely burned away, veins like earthworms bulging from his skin, he looked ferocious.

In the duel between Sword Qi and fireball, the former clearly held the advantage, the sharp Sword Qi gradually slicing through the fireball, closing in on its target.

But,

each inch forward, the Sword Qi visibly shrank.

Seeing this, Gao Jinming's eyes brightened.

He had thought Yan Ming was doomed,

but now it appeared, not necessarily!

"That guy is hiding his power too?"

Du Hao was equally shocked,

he recalled that a few months ago,

the fireball Yan Ming could form was only about two meters in diameter at most,

now it had exceeded three meters,

though it seemed only a meter more,

its power had increased several times.

"No wonder he wants to advance in Jiulong City, his strength has already reached B-level?"

Du Hao squinted slightly, this guy was being sly, even playing the hidden strength card in front of him.

But stronger is good, if he were to die here, it would be a wasted trip for him.

A few seconds later, the fireball was finally split into two,

but the Sword Qi had shrunk from its original five meters to just over three,

with a clang,

it struck heavily on Yan Ming's protective shield.

The previous scene replayed.

Yan Ming's face turned pale, drenched in sweat, looking like he had just emerged from water.

His gaze bypassed the Sword Qi in front of him and fixed on Chen Fan, gasping heavily.

If there were no surprises, after exhausting all his Spiritual Power and the two Protective Talismans,

he would block this second strike too,

but,

he dared not confirm if the opponent could unleash a third strike.

If he could,

then except waiting to die, he had no other solution.

Accompanied by a slight cracking sound,

the Sword Qi gradually dissipated.

However, the atmosphere on the scene was eerily quiet,

not only Yan Ming, Du Hao's heart was in his throat too,

he was really afraid the next moment,

Chen Fan might raise his knife again,

Gao Jinming swallowed hard, a glimmer of peculiar color flashed through his eyes,

in this situation of mutual stalemate, where neither side could read the other's bottom card,

his Mind Reading would undoubtedly be of great use.

"Let me see if you still have excess power or if you're just bluffing."

Gao Jinming's gaze turned to Chen Fan's eyes,

immediately, he widened his eyes with disbelief,

he couldn't probe the opponent's inner thoughts?

Could it be that this guy's Spiritual Power was above his?

"No, impossible!"

Gao Jinming couldn't believe it, this guy was just a Martial Artist, wasn't he?

How could a Martial Artist have higher Spiritual Power than him?

There must be a mistake.

But the next moment, a sharp gaze swept over and collided with his vision.

Gao Jinming turned pale with fright.

No, it's not an illusion,

the opponent's Spiritual Power was truly above his,

otherwise, he could not have sensed his probing.

Chen Fan looked at Gao Jinming, frowning slightly.

Just now, he had a feeling of being peeped at,

"Could this guy be an Awakener of Spiritual Element Superpower?"

Chen Fan guessed in his heart.

Among these people, this guy indeed had the weakest aura.

At this moment, a loud laugh rang out,

"Hahaha, hahaha,"

it was from Yan Ming,

"Why don't you continue? Didn't you say if one strike won't kill me, you'll strike again? But the second strike didn't kill me, did it? Hmm? Let me tell you, if you strike a third time, I'll definitely die at your hands, but now, so long and yet no third strike?"

Yan Ming said with a sinister smile.

Judging from the fact that the opponent immediately struck the second time,

the opponent was clearly someone as ruthless as himself,

such a person,

if he could strike,

would definitely not stand there staring dumbly.

So the answer was evident.

"Isn't it that your True Qi is insufficient for a third strike?"

Yan Ming asked, secretly preparing for Instant Teleportation.

Du Hao and Gao Jinming both looked over.

"You're right."

Chen Fan nodded, "I indeed can't manage a third strike."

Now, he only had about three to four thousand points of True Qi left.

To be honest,

Yan Ming's performance was a bit unexpected to him,

he thought the second strike would end the battle.

"Hahahaha!"

Yan Ming laughed again,

his laughter carried a strong sense of hatred.

For a long time, no one had pushed him to this point!

That feeling of despair, like half a foot in the ghost door.

Fortunately, he managed to fend it off with his strength.

Next, it was his turn...

"Though my True Qi is limited, it's enough to kill you."

Chen Fan said slowly.

"Kill me? With just you?"

Yan Ming sneered, suddenly pulling out a bottle of Elixirs,

poured them into his mouth as if spilling beans.

These were Gathering Spirit Pills, able to restore Spiritual Power,

once his brain's Spiritual Power recovered mostly,

it would be the end for this man in front!

"With just me."

Chen Fan said, then his figure flashed, instantly appearing in front of the opponent,

the dagger in his hand turned into a black beam,

slicing towards the opponent's throat,

"Naive!"

Yan Ming's eyes showed a hint of mockery,

as if saying,

do you think you can hit me?

He moved his thoughts, directly used Instant Teleportation Items, disappearing from his position.

In the next second, his figure appeared a hundred meters away,

his gaze turned to his earlier position,

he seemed to have seen Chen Fan slashing into the air,

but unfortunately, the smile on his face didn't have time to bloom,

when a pitch-black blade light came into view.

"???"

Yan Ming's eyes widened,

he didn't even feel pain,

his head flew high into the air,

with his strong Life Force,

he retained complete consciousness for a split second,

and saw his headless corpse on the ground,

"It looks familiar?"

This thought came to his mind,

with his peripheral vision catching the knife-wielding figure.

Knife-wielding person?

A jolt went through him, that headless corpse beside him?

No! No!

His mouth opened wide, but no sound came out, only feeling the pain surging like a tsunami,

How could I die?

How could I possibly die?

He had already guessed the opponent would rush to kill him,

so he teleported immediately!

Teleported to a place a hundred meters away,

but why, why couldn't he escape that strike?

His consciousness gradually blurred, eventually engulfed by darkness.

"Thud!"

A dull sound rang out,

Yan Ming's headless corpse,

fell heavily to the ground, quickly staining the surface with blood.

Du Hao in the distance fell into deep shock.

Compared to Yan Ming,

he clearly saw what happened.

Yes, Yan Ming did dodge the opponent's attack in time,

but the opponent seemed to predict his position,

appearing first a hundred meters away, and as Yan Ming appeared, the blade light slashed his throat,

it seemed like Yan Ming deliberately moved his neck into the blade.

Gao Jinming also saw this scene, his body trembling violently,

he thought of He Changshu's death,

Perception!

It's Perception!

This guy must possess Perception Items!

Otherwise, how could he know He Changshu was behind him?

How could he know Yan Ming's landing spot after using Instant Teleportation Items?

But in the association,

Perception Items' prices are far higher than Instant Teleportation Items', moreover, this guy is clearly a Martial Artist, where would he get Perception Items?

Chen Fan looked at the dagger in his hand, somewhat astonished.

Just now, his blade cut through the tough protective shield and slit the opponent's throat.

What's going on?

Could it be that High Tier alloy weapons are not just sharper?

Despite his doubts, it wasn't time to delve into these questions.

He lifted his head, looked at the remaining two people, and calmly said:

"You two, are you planning to come one by one, or together?"

## Chapter 269: The Unkillable Opponent

Upon hearing Chen Fan's voice,

Gao Jinming was almost scared enough to fall to the ground.

He wasn't even a match for Fang Yun or Ma Sheng, who were both dead earlier.

Let alone someone who could kill Yan Ming. Going up against him would be like smashing an egg against a rock.

So, there were only two options in front of him,

One was to run!

Run as far as he could.

Indeed, the person in front of him might have perception items,

but no matter how powerful he was, he couldn't sense things miles away, could he?

As long as he could escape, everything would be fine later.

This plan seemed like the best option, but after careful consideration,

Gao Jinming decided to choose the second option.

"Brother Du."

He looked at Du Hao beside him with a pleading gaze.

This man was a confidant of Jiulong City Lord. It was said that in his early years, he had risked his life countless times to save the lord,

and later developed a small village of just a hundred people into today's Jiulong City.

Therefore, although Du Hao's strength was middle-tier in Jiulong City, he was always deeply trusted by the City Lord,

even those B-level Awakened treated him with great respect when they saw him.

"Clap, clap, clap."

Du Hao clapped his hands and laughed, "Indeed impressive. I didn't expect even Yan Ming would end up dead at your hands. No wonder you came here alone with such confidence."

Chen Fan frowned slightly.

The reaction of the man in front of him was somewhat unexpected.

After all, the normal response should be similar to the person next to him,

Did he have some kind of trump card up his sleeve?

Seeing this, Du Hao's smile grew broader,

"With just True Essence Realm's power, you managed to kill four C-level Awakened in one go. And looking at you now, you still have excess power. Not simple, indeed. Well, are you interested in working under me?"

"Work under you?"

Chen Fan asked suspiciously, "These people were calling you brother just a while ago, and I killed them. Don't you feel angry at all?"

"Outmatched in skills, what's there to complain about."

Du Hao sighed lightly, "Besides, I think there must have been some grievance between you and them. This is your issue, I can't interfere."

"Oh, really?"

Chen Fan laughed, "But I clearly remember you asking that guy if he needed your help earlier."

Du Hao's face darkened, "Friend, I said those things out of goodwill. Bringing up the past is meaningless. Besides, do you really think you can kill me?"

"How would I know without trying?"

A cold glint flashed in Chen Fan's eyes.

"Hahahaha, such arrogance! Do you know who I am?"

Du Hao laughed twice, then spoke in a cold tone.

"Friend, have you heard of Jiulong City?"

Gao Jinming chimed in timely, "This man is the savior of Jiulong City Lord. If you kill him here, the consequences will be much more severe than killing Yan Ming and those few. You must not act rashly."

"Jiulong City?"

Chen Fan frowned slightly,

He had some impression of it,

It seemed to be an intermediate city with a population of hundreds of thousands,

With several B-level Awakened holding the fort, and quite a few Martial Artists among them.

"Yes, that's right."

Gao Jinming breathed a sigh of relief and continued, "Rest assured, what happened here today will be regarded as if it never happened. No one will seek revenge afterward, and I think you should consider Brother Du's offer. With your skills, joining Jiulong City, you would certainly shine."

"Oh really? What if I insist on making a move?"

Chen Fan spoke coldly.

"!"

Gao Jinming was stunned immediately.

He had already made things so clear.

This guy still wanted to make a move?

Was he not afraid of bringing disaster upon himself?

"Such audacity, do you know what my superpower is?"

Du Hao sneered.

"What, no matter how powerful your superpower is, can it be stronger than the ones I just killed?"

Chen Fan sneered, secretly activating Celestial Response.

One, to prevent the opponent from using instant teleportation items to escape,

Two, to observe for any changes in the opponent's aura,

In fact, there were none.

"In battle, I may not be their match, but in preserving my life, my superpower far exceeds your imagination."

Du Hao placed his hands behind his back and looked at Chen Fan arrogantly, "Do you think the person in front of you is the real me?"

"What do you mean?"

Chen Fan asked instinctively, "Could it be that the current you is fake?"

"You can understand it that way."

Du Hao smiled smugly, "The person standing before you and talking right now is just a clone. You understand what a clone is, right?"

"Clone..."

Chen Fan's eyebrows furrowed upon hearing this.

"Yes."

Du Hao's face showed even more pride, "I told you before, even if you kill the current me, it's useless because you can't kill the real me. And if you actually do so,"

a cold smile appeared on his lips,

"you will face the wrath of Jiulong City. Do you think, with your True Essence Realm, you can withstand how many B-level Awakened?"

The atmosphere fell silent.

"If what he said is true, then it's indeed troublesome."

Chen Fan sighed inwardly,

He suddenly remembered Meng Xue's previous words,

She mentioned that there would be significant trouble, and she must have been referring to this person.

It seemed that what he said was likely true,

B-level Awakened,

This level of existence,

was far more terrifying than C-level,

probably only one would be enough,

to sweep through the entire Anshan City,

"Understand now?"

Seeing Chen Fan's pensive look, Du Hao nodded in satisfaction, saying, "Considering your notable strength, I'm giving you the chance to work for me. Rest assured, the benefits won't be lacking."

"Yes, friend, it's really a rare opportunity to get Brother Du's admiration as a martial artist. Many martial artists in Jiulong City would give anything for this chance."

Gao Jinming smiled as well.

Du Hao's superpower was cloning, which wasn't a secret among the Awakened.

Several times, Du Hao had died miserably in front of people,

but each time, he appeared alive, almost scaring people to death,

Until he revealed that his superpower was cloning, everyone gradually understood.

It was said that his real body was in a very secure location, where ordinary people had no chance of entering.

"Really?"

Chen Fan's lips curled slightly, "How do I know you're not lying to me?"

"What do you want to do?"

Du Hao's eyes flashed a trace of panic,

"I warn you, don't act recklessly. If you lay a hand on me, even if you escape to the ends of the earth, I won't let you go!"

"Friend, don't act recklessly!"

Gao Jinming was also panicked.

He shouted, "Brother Du's superpower really is cloning! I'm not lying to you! If you don't believe, you can check with anyone from our association!"

"You seemed a bit panicked just now?"

Chen Fan squinted his eyes.

"Panicked about what!"

Du Hao denied flatly, "My superpower isn't a secret in the association. Even if you kill me here, it won't affect me at all."

"Really?"

Chen Fan expressed doubt,

did losing a clone have no impact on the real body?

He didn't believe it, that's one,

second,

If he's an enemy, how could he let him go?

Even if it's a useless clone, letting him go isn't an option!

"Since you said so, let me verify it firsthand."

As he finished, Chen Fan's figure appeared instantly before Du Hao,

before the latter could react,

a blade pierced his chest,

As the tip touched the body,

a protective shield appeared,

"Crack!"

With a crisp sound,

the sturdy protective shield proved as fragile as paper,

the sharp dagger pierced Du Hao's heart,

then was pulled out, blood spurted out.

"You! You!"

Du Hao finally reacted,

his expression twisted in pain,

his hands covering his heart,

trying to stop the blood,

but it was too late,

he could only stare at Chen Fan with an incredulous look,

Just a mere Martial Artist,

Even if he was in True Essence Realm so what?

An inferior, weak Martial Artist,

Where did he get the courage to disregard him?

Soon, his eyes were filled with venom,

bloodshot eyes fixated on Chen Fan,

as if trying to engrave his face in memory,

"I will find you."

He muttered, voice unclear,

then collapsed to the ground.

"So it really was a clone."

Chen Fan frowned,

Though he couldn't hear clearly, the lip movements were clear,

This was indeed a troublesome superpower, theoretically speaking, if the real body couldn't be found, the real Du Hao couldn't be killed, leading to endless revenge.

Of course, there was one condition,

he had to know who you were, and find you.

He turned to Gao Jinming, said, "Your turn."

Gao Jinming was petrified, face pale as a sheet.

He never expected the man before him to be so audacious, even daring to kill Du Hao!

As for him, what else was there to say?

In the next moment, he used an instant teleportation item, appearing five kilometers away.

As long as the green hills last, there's no fear of running out of firewood!

Once he reported this to the headquarters, naturally, hunters would come to eliminate this guy.

As soon as he reappeared,

a despairing black light cleaved toward him.

"Crack!"

With a crisp sound,

the protective shield shattered, the dagger slashed through his head, blood spurting.

"How could it be?"

Gao Jinming stared wide-eyed.

He had already escaped so far,

how could his opponent find him instantly?

Why, on earth?

Chapter 270 Do You Know This Person?

Gao Jinming's eyes gradually dimmed, eventually losing their luster, and he fell to the ground.

Chen Fan slowly exhaled a breath.

With this, the matter should be settled.

Of course, it would be better if the person named Du couldn't escape.

But there was nothing that could be done about it. These Awakeners have all sorts of bizarre superpowers. Comparatively, having a clone is not that uncommon. As for future retaliation—

He wasn't stupid. After causing such a big commotion with this identity, naturally, he would have to lay low. It's just a pseudonym, after all.

The only concern was whether using the Windward Slash in the future would be recognized by clever people.

"Forget it. I'll deal with it later. To be safe, let's bring these bodies back. They might have some valuable space items on them."

Chen Fan crouched down and touched a corpse with his palm.

The corpse immediately vanished from its original spot and appeared inside the space item.

This was something he learned only from reading the association's item descriptions.

Living things cannot be placed inside space items, but once they die, they can.

In the next moment, his figure appeared at the site where the battle had erupted earlier,

placing the few corpses on the ground into the space item as well.

His gaze swept around, finding the surroundings eerily quiet,

the guards that were usually seen everywhere seemed to have vanished into thin air.

"This place is not safe for long. Let's take Meng Xue back first."

His figure disappeared from the spot once more.

...

"Pfft!"

A man who had been sitting cross-legged with closed eyes on a cushion suddenly opened his eyes and spat out a mouthful of fresh blood, dyeing the large area in front of him red and shocking.

"Huff, huff..."

The man propped his hands on the ground, panting heavily. After one or two minutes, he slowly lifted his head, revealing a familiar face.

Yes, it was Du Hao, who had been killed by Chen Fan in Anshan City.

However, compared to his previous rosy and radiant complexion, now he looked frighteningly pale, like a ghost.

"Damn it!"

Du Hao gritted his teeth, his heart filled with a desire to carve Chen Fan into pieces.

Indeed, his superpower was cloning; as long as his true body wasn't dead, he could continue to live.

But this didn't mean the death of a clone had no effect on him.

On the contrary, whenever a clone died, he paid a heavy price,

each clone's death caused about thirty percent regression in his true body's strength. This might seem insignificant, as he could just cultivate the lost strength back later.

Initially, he thought so and did not hesitate to risk his life, venturing into dangerous places or leading powerful Fierce Beasts away alone to ensure his team's safe retreat, eventually getting killed.

This brought him huge benefits and reputation, and he was proud of his superpower.

Until later, he gradually realized something was wrong.

To be precise, when he broke through from a D-level Awakened to a C-level, he started noticing the issue.

Compared to his peers who became C-level within half a year, he spent nearly two years.

What did this mean? His cultivation speed was theoretically double theirs since he summoned a clone to cultivate together. But his effective cultivation time was more than double theirs. In essence, his cultivation efficiency was one-fifth of theirs!

After becoming a C-level Awakened, the issue became even more apparent.

With the same resources, even several times more resources, his cultivation speed was one-tenth of theirs!

While others had already surpassed the C-level threshold, becoming B-level Awakeners, he was still stuck.

That's when he realized that the cost of a clone's death not only included strength regression but also increased difficulty in advancement.

Every clone's death increased the difficulty of cultivation substantially,

each subsequent death raised the difficulty significantly!

The higher the death count, the greater the difficulty increase, eventually reaching a point where he had to exert ten or even dozens of times more effort than others to keep up.

Thus, from a certain perspective, despite his seeming immortality, he feared death more than anyone else.

That was one of the reasons he tried hard to recruit Chen Fan before; having died almost ten times, another death might forever confine him to the C-level Awakened tier in this life.

The second reason was that he believed a mere Martial Artist, even a True Essence Realm Martial Artist, should grovel in gratitude for his favor.

But in the end...

Thinking of this, Du Hao's anger surged, causing him to spit out another mouthful of blood.

He wiped his mouth with his sleeve, stood up, and walked out of the room.

"Lord!"

The two Awakeners at the door were shocked upon seeing him.

What happened? Did Lord Du experience a mishap during cultivation?

"Bring Ling Shiyao here, and find an artist for me as well."

"Yes!"

The two executed the orders immediately, despite not knowing what was going on.

Du Hao's lips curled into a cold smile.

Two or three minutes later, two men entered one after the other,

The leading man was one of the two who had just left.

The man following him was an extraordinary middle-aged man, tall and nearly a meter ninety, towering over the leading man.

But upon seeing Du Hao, the middle-aged man deflated like a punctured balloon,

his previous imposing manner instantly vanishing, he bent down and looked at the tea-drinking Du Hao obsequiously:

"I wonder what business Lord Du has to summon me? If there's anything you need, please just direct me."

"Chairman Ling, have a seat."

Du Hao pointed to an empty seat beside him.

"Yes."

Ling Shiyao cautiously sat down, barely half-sitting.

"Please wait a moment, Chairman Ling. I have an urgent matter to discuss with you shortly."

"No problem, no problem."

Ling Shiyao hurriedly replied, his heart leaping to his throat.

What could this person want with him? Would it be good or bad?

"Sigh."

Thinking so, he sighed heavily in his heart.

Despite being the chairman of the Jiulong City branch of the Jiangnan Sub-district Martial Arts Association, with notable strength and status,

he had to remain humble before this person. If he angered Du Hao, all his previous effort would vanish.

Soon, a rush of footsteps sounded,

two more people entered,

The one behind him carried a backpack, hunched over, head lowered,

"Lord, the artist you requested has arrived. He is the best in town, his work indistinguishable from photographs."

The leading man said,

"Is that so?"

Du Hao set down his teacup and beckoned the artist over. "Come here."

The man shivered at the command, looking like he was hanging by a thread, approached cautiously, his heart pounding.

"I instruct, you draw well, and you'll be rewarded. If not—don't blame me for being harsh."

Du Hao said coldly.

"Y-yes."

The artist nodded repeatedly, terrified.

He was sure that the person could kill him without difficulty.

He quickly spread out the parchment and prepared the paint.

The two men and Ling Shiyao watching showed puzzled expressions,

but dared not ask more, only observing quietly.

Soon, the artist picked up the brush, in a voice as faint as a mosquito's: "Lord, I-I'm ready."

"Good,"

Du Hao recalled Chen Fan's appearance and started describing it.

After making several adjustments, soon, the parchment displayed a fierce-looking man holding a long knife,

closely resembling Chen Fan's disguised appearance, except for minor details.

"L-Lord."

The artist swallowed nervously, looking at Du Hao anxiously.

The person drawn was exactly as described, but he didn't know if it was to Du Hao's satisfaction.

Du Hao seemed mesmerized, staring intensely at the drawing.

After a moment, he burst into harsh laughter, his eyes showing deep hatred,

"Yes, yes, that's him!"

"Wang Liang, transfer one million to his account."

"Yes, Lord."

The addressed man replied.

"Thank you, Lord! Thank you!"

The artist knelt, repeatedly kowtowing to Du Hao.

One million, when could he earn that much?

But drawing one picture here earned him that.

Soon, there were three left in the room. Du Hao looked up and beckoned Ling Shiyao.

"Chairman Ling, take a look. Do you know this person?"

"Okay."

Ling Shiyao quickly came over, his eyes wide like an ox's, fixated on the drawing.

Du Hao took a sip of tea.

He wasn't drinking out of leisure or thirst,

the tea had excellent stabilizing effects on the Divine Soul.

Bringing Ling Shiyao here was simple,

there were only so many True Essence Realm Martial Artists,

excluding those who served under the Awakeners, even fewer.

Asking Ling Shiyao to identify,

if he could recognize this person directly,

it would be perfect,

he could bring people to capture that person,

and he wouldn't rest until he had tortured them thousands of times.

If he couldn't recognize,

he would ask him to investigate,

if he failed to discover—

humph!

Time passed second by second, three minutes gone in a flash,

Ling Shiyao's brows knit tightly,

he couldn't recognize this person?

But if Du Hao called him, it was likely he wanted to know who this person was, some conflict between them must have happened.

If he spoke the truth, he might be blamed.

"Have you decided what answer to give me?"

Du Hao sneered at Ling Shiyao, who was practically burying his eyes in the drawing.

"Lord, I truly don't recognize this person, haven't seen him before. However,"

Ling Shiyao quickly said, "Please give me a week. Then, I will surely bring this person to you."